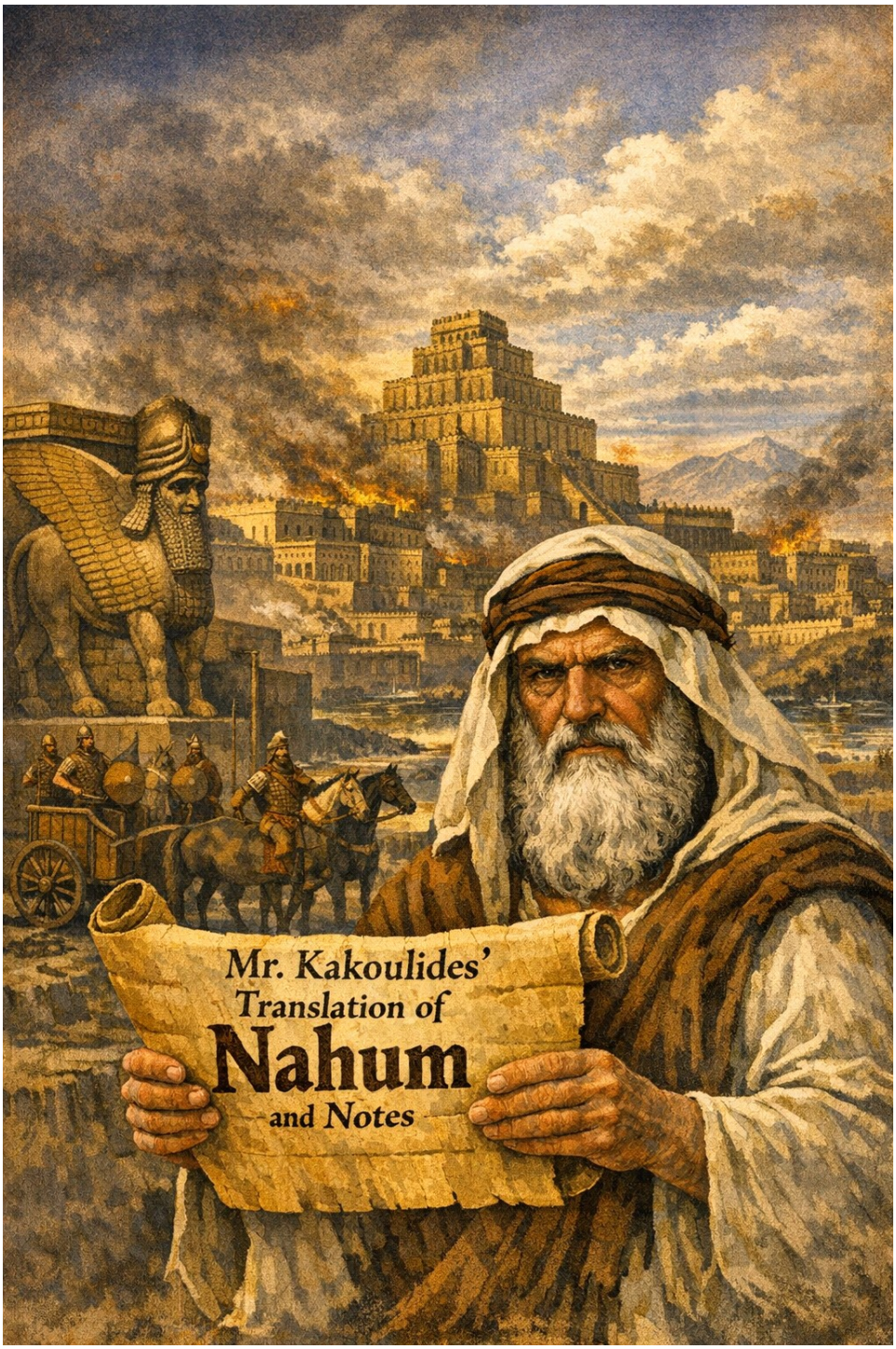


Date : 650-620 B.C

Author : Nahum

Outline:

Chapter 01 ..... God is Awesome who will take Vengeance

Chapter 02..... The downfall of Nineveh

Chapter 03..... Nineveh's Complete destruction

Content: What is at times bad news for some is good news for others and here we have just that a nation that terrorise other nations was to be destoryed never to rise again. This destruction happen in 612 B.C. The city was captured and destroyed by Babylonia and its allies. Jonah the prophet some 150 years before desired the job to bring judgement on this nation and see it's down fall but saw God's mercy on it. Now a prophet named Nahum who was from Capernaum a city who was named later on after him which means "village of Nahum" which Jesus Christ minstered in his earthly minstry, God uses to bring the good news to others but bad news to Nineveh that it's destruction is drawing near .

Host of the Mr Kakoulides and the Bible Podcast

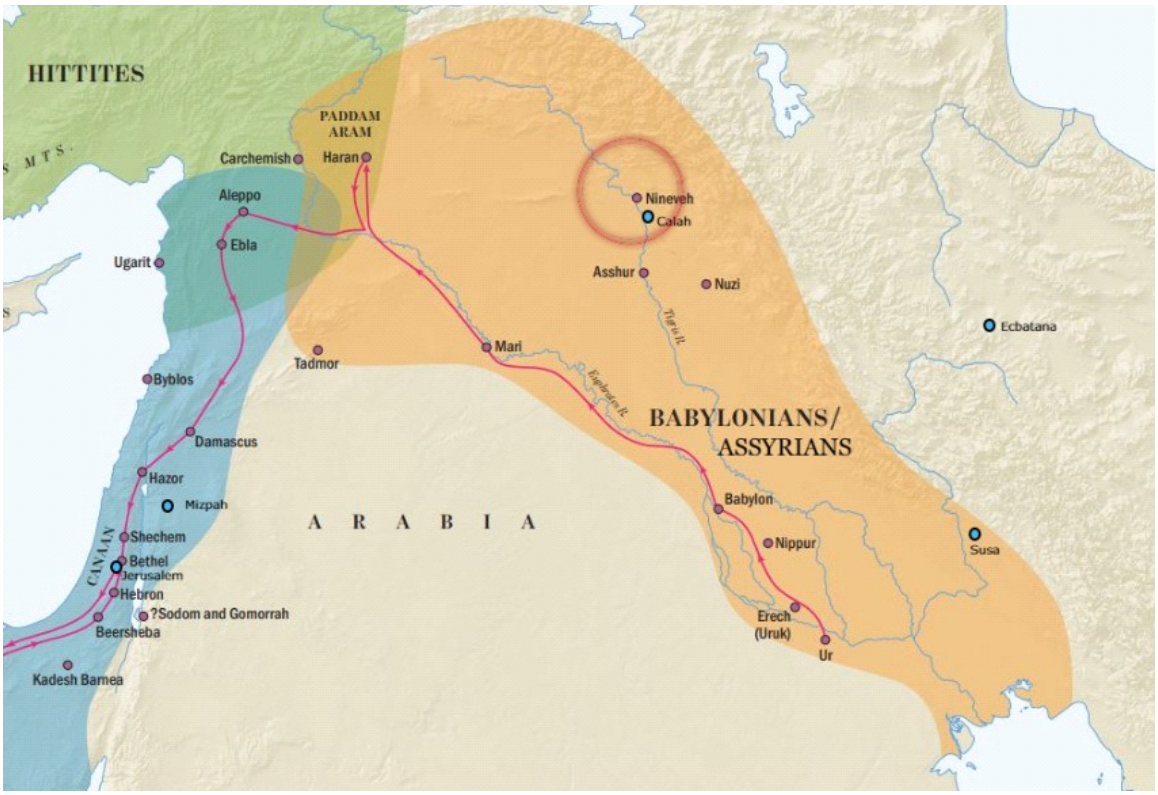
Harris Kakoulides

God is Awesome who will take Vengeance

Nahum 1:1 The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum of Elkosh (the Elkoshite) .

Septuagint states *{"The sentence on Ninive. The book of the vision of Nahum, the Elkosite."}*

Elkoshite means "God the ensnarer" or "God is harsh " the Location is not known but could be a referance *to* Capernaum or to his person as being the one who God will use as to bring judgement on the nation that terrorise other nations.



Modern Country	Key Assyrian Areas	Major Cities
Iraq	Nineveh Plains, Dohuk, Erbil	Mosul, Erbil, Kirkuk
Turkey	Tur Abdin region	Mardin, Midyat
Syria	Al-Hasakah Governorate	Qamishli, Al-Hasakah
Iran	West Azerbaijan Province	Urmia

Nahum 1:2 El (God) is jealous, and YHWH (the LORD) avenges; YHWH (the LORD) avenges and is furious. YHWH (the LORD) will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves wrath for His enemies;

Repeating shows the importance of the matter, it was the means of underlining or making it bold in ancient times

Septuagint {"God is zealous. The Lord is about to take vengeance: the Lord is about to take vengeance with wrath: the Lord is about to take vengeance on his adversaries, and to destroy utterly his enemies, himself. "}

Nahum 1:3 YHWH (the LORD) is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all not clear (acquit) the wicked. YHWH (the LORD) has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds are the dust of His feet.

Theodoret of Cyrrhus 393 - 466 A.D. in his Commentary on Nahum 1.3 states {"“The Lord is longsuffering, great is his power, and he will certainly not clear the guilty.”He does not suddenly and all at once inflict punishment, but only

after exercising extreme longsuffering. You Ninevites are witnesses to this, practicing repentance and finding salvation, and then guilty of extreme wickedness and for a time not paying the penalty for it. But after putting up with people's wickedness for a long time, he is accustomed to inflict punishment on the unrepentant (the meaning of "he will certainly not clear the guilty," that is, he will not exempt from retribution the person whose sins deserve punishment)."}

Septuagint {" The Lord is slow to anger, though his power is great; will not the Lord then acquit the innocent? Is his way in destruction and whirlwind, when clouds are the dust of his feet? "}

Nahum 1:4 He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon withers.

Septuagint {" When he rebuketh the sea he maketh it dry, and drieth up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel are diminished and the bloom of Libanus languished."}

Nahum 1:5 The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth is swept away at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it.

Septuagint {" At him the mountains quake and the hills tremble; at his presence the earth is startled; the world and all its inhabitants."}

Nahum 1:6 Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.

Septuagint {" At the presence of his wrath who can stand, or who can resist his fierce indignation? His wrath dissolveth governments, and by him the rocks are rent to pieces."}

Nahum 1:7 YHWH (The LORD) is good, A stronghold in the day of trouble; And He knows those who trust in Him.

Septuagint {" The Lord is kind to them who wait for him in a day of distress: and he knoweth them who reverence

him."}

Nahum 1:8 But with an overflowing flood He will make an utter end of its place, And darkness will pursue His enemies.

Septuagint {"When with a deluging march he maketh destruction; them who raise themselves up and are his enemies, darkness shall pursue. "}

Nahum 1:9 What do you conspire against YHWH (the LORD) ? He will make an utter end of it. Affliction will not rise up a second time.

Septuagint {"What are you devising against the Lord? He will make complete destruction, and not punish twice by distress for the same thing."}

Nahum 1:10 For while tangled like thorns, And while drunken like drunken men, They shall be devoured like stubble fully dried.

Septuagint {"Because one shall be utterly destroyed, and consumed like bindweed and dry stubble;"}

Nahum 1:11 From you comes forth one Who plots evil against YHWH (the LORD) , A wicked counselor.

Septuagint {" shall a reasoning against the Lord proceed from thee; wicked city, devising things in opposition?"}

Nahum 1:12 Thus says YHWH (the LORD) : "Though they are safe, and likewise many, Yet in this manner they will be cut down When he passes through. Though I have afflicted you, I will afflict you no more;

Septuagint {"Thus saith the Lord, With respect to the ruler of many waters! they shall be so dispersed, that what thou hearest shall be heard no more. "}

Nahum 1:13 For now I will break off his yoke from you, And burst your bonds apart."

Septuagint {"I will now break his sceptre from thee, and burst the bands asunder."}

Nahum 1:14 YHWH (the LORD) has given a command concerning you: "Your name shall be perpetuated no longer. Out of the house of your gods I will cut off the carved image and the molded image. I will dig your grave, For you are vile."

Septuagint {"Concerning thee the Lord will command, let none of thy name be sown any more. From the house of thy God I will root out the graven and molten images; I will make it a sepulchre for thee."}

Augustine (of Hippo) 354 to 430 AD states in City of God Book 18 chapter 31 {"The prophet Nahum (or, better, God speaking through him) says, "I will destroy the graven and molten thing; I will make it your grave. Behold upon the mountains the feet of him that brings peace. O Judah, keep your festivals and pay your vows, for it shall no longer be that they may pass into disuse. It is completed, it is consumed, it is taken away. He is come up that breathes into your face and rescues you from tribulation." Anyone who knows the Gospels will recognize who it was that came up from hell and breathed the Holy Spirit into the face of Judah, that is, into the face of his Jewish disciples. The words about the festivals are, of course, a reference to the New Testament, in which festivals are so spiritually renewed that they can never "pass into disuse." The rest of the prophecy too we see realized in that the gospel brought about the destruction of "graven and molten things," that is, the idols of the false gods, consigned now to the oblivion of the grave."}

Nahum 1:15 Behold, on the mountains The feet of him who brings good tidings (Good news , Gospel) , Who proclaims peace! O Judah, keep your appointed feasts, Perform your vows. For the wicked one shall no more pass through you; He is utterly cut off.

Septuagint {"Because yonder on the mountain are the swift feet of one bringing good news: even of one announcing peace; O Juda, solemnize thy festivals; pay thy vows; for they shall no more proceed to pass through thee for conflict. It is completely laid waste, entirely removed."}

The good news here is not that of the New Testament that Jesus died for thier sins but of the destruction of the captial of Assyria Nineveh which was to be no more

The Downfall of Nineveh

Nahum 2:1 He who scatters has come up before your face. Keep guard over the stronghold (rampart, fort) ! Watch the road! Strengthen your loins ! Fortify your power mightily.

Septuagint {" Into thy presence came up panting one who is delivered from affliction. Watch the way; strengthen thy loins; act manfully with all thy might,"}

Nahum 2:2 For YHWH (the LORD) will restore the excellence of Jacob Like the excellence of Israel, For the emptiers have emptied them out And ruined their vine branches.

Septuagint {" since the Lord hath averted contumely from Jacob, as he did reproach from Israel, since emptiers have emptied them out and destroyed their branches;"}

Nahum 2:3 The shields of his mighty men are made red, The valiant men are in scarlet. The chariots come with flaming torches In the day of his preparation, And the spears are brandished.

Septuagint {"the instruments of their tyranny from among men; their mighty men insulting with fire. In the day of his preparation the reins of their chariots, and the horsemen will be disordered in their ranks; "}

Nahum 2:4 The chariots rage in the streets, They run against (strike against) one another in the broad roads; They seem like torches, They run like lightning.

Septuagint {" and the chariots will justle together and be entangled with one another in the streets. The appearance of them is like flaming torches and like streamy lightning."}

Nahum 2:5 He remembers his nobles; They stumble in their walk; They make haste to her walls, And the defense is prepared.

Septuagint {"Their grandees will recollect and flee by day; but they shall be weak in their march. While they shall be hasting to her walls, and preparing their out guards;"}

Nahum 2:6 The gates of the rivers are opened, And the palace is dissolved.

Septuagint {"the gates of the cities are opened, and the palaces are fallen."}

Nahum 2:7 It is decreed: She shall be led away captive, She shall be brought up; And her maidservants shall lead her as with the voice of doves, Beating their breasts.

Septuagint {"And the empress herself is exposed to view; even she herself is gone up, and her maids are led along cooing plaintively like doves, in their hearts."}

Nahum 2:8 Though Nineveh of old was like a pool of water, Now they flee away. "Halt! Halt!" they cry; But no one turns back.

Septuagint {"As for Ninive, her waters are like a standing pool. They who fled away made no halt, nor was there one who looked back."}

Nahum 2:9 Take spoil of silver! Take spoil of gold! There is no end of treasure, Or wealth of every desirable prize.

Septuagint {"They plundered the silver; they plundered the gold; but of her furniture there was no end; every one is loaded with her precious utensils."}

Nahum 2:10 She is empty, desolate, and waste! The heart melts, and the knees shake; Much pain is in every side, And all their faces are drained of color.

Septuagint {"What quaking and driving! what groans and heart breaking! what feebleness of knees and pangs in every loin! what blackness, like that of a pot, on the countenance of all!"}

Nahum 2:11 Where is the dwelling of the lions, And the feeding place of the young lions, Where the lion walked, the lioness and lion's cub, And no one made them afraid?

Septuagint {"where is the habitation of the lions, and the feeding places of the young lions? Where had the old lions gone, that a young lion entered and there was none to scare him?"}

Nahum 2:12 The lion tore in pieces enough for his cubs, Killed for his lionesses, Filled his caves with prey, And his dens with flesh.

Septuagint {"The old lion had seized enough for his whelps, and had strangled for his lionesses, and had filled his hole with prey, and his den with ravin:"}

Nahum 2:13 "Behold, I am against you," says YHWH (the LORD) of Armies , "I will burn your chariots in smoke, and the sword shall devour your young lions; I will cut off your prey from the earth, and the voice of your messengers shall be heard no more."

Septuagint {"behold I am against thee saith the Lord Almighty, and I will burn out thy multitude with smoke; and a sword shall devour thy lions: and I will cut off thy prey from the earth; and of thy deeds nothing more shall be heard."}

Nineveh's Complete Destruction

Nahum 3:1 Woe to the bloody city! It is all full of lies and robbery. The prey doesn't depart.

Woe or " Ah" (Heb הוֹי *"hoy") stands for judgement*

Septuagint {"bloody city, wholly perfidious and full of lies! shall not thy prey be handled?"}

Nahum 3:2 The noise of the whip, the noise of the rattling of wheels, prancing horses, and bounding

chariots,

Septuagint {"A sound of whips! and the sound of the rumbling of wheels, and of the pursuing horse! and bounding chariot!"}

Nahum 3:3 the horseman mounting, and the flashing sword, the glittering spear, and a multitude of slain, and a great heap of corpses, and there is no end of the bodies. They stumble on their bodies,

Septuagint {"and of the cavalry advancing! and of the glittering sword and gleamy arms! and of the multitude of wounded! and of the hideous crash! Though there was no bound to her nations, they shall be weak of body"}

Nahum 3:4 because of the multitude of the prostitution of the alluring prostitute, the mistress of witchcraft, who sells nations through her prostitution, and families through her witchcraft.

Septuagint {"by reason of great fornication; OH fair harlot and bewitching mistress of sorceries, who sellest nations by thy whoredom, and peoples by thy sorceries!"}

Nahum 3:5 "Behold, I am against you," says YHWH (the LORD) of Armies, "and I will lift your skirts over your face. I will show the nations your nakedness, and the kingdoms your shame.

Septuagint {"behold I am against you , says the Lord God Almighty, and I will expose thy skirts to view; and shew nations your shame; and kingdoms, your dishonour:"}

Nahum 3:6 I will throw abominable filth on you, and make you vile, and will set you a spectacle.

Septuagint {"and cast abomination on you according to your impurities; and make you a public example,"}

Nahum 3:7 It will happen that all those who look at you will flee from you, and say, 'Nineveh is laid waste! Who will mourn for her?' Where will I seek comforters for you?"

Septuagint {"so that every one who sees you shall go down from you and say, Wretched Ninive! who can bemoan her? Where can I find comfort for her?"}

Nahum 3:8 Are you better than No-Amon, (Thebes) who was situated among the rivers, who had the waters around her; whose rampart was the sea, and her wall was of the sea?

Septuagint {"Prepare a funeral cake! attune the lyre! prepare the funeral cake of Ammon! she dwelt among rivers; water was around her. The sea was her dominions, and water, her walls,"}

Nahum 3:9 Cush and Egypt were her boundless strength. Put and Libya were her helpers.

Septuagint {"and Ethiopia and Egypt, her strength; and the end of her flight was not stopped and the Lybians were her auxiliaries."}

Nahum 3:10 Yet was she carried away. She went into captivity. Her young children also were dashed in pieces at the head of all the streets, and they cast lots for her honorable men, and all her great men were bound in chains.

Septuagint {"Yet she is to go captive into banishment; and her infants shall be dashed to the ground at the head of all the streets); and for all her splendid treasures lots shall be cast; and all her grandees shall be bound with fetters."}

Nahum 3:11 You will be like a drunken woman. You will be hidden. You also will seek a stronghold because of the enemy.

The you (fem.) refers back to Nineveh.

Septuagint {"And as for thee thou shalt be made drunk and be despised, and shalt seek for thyself a resting place from enemies."}

Nahum 3:12 All your fortresses will be like fig trees with the first-ripe figs: if they are shaken, they fall into the mouth of the eater.

Septuagint {" All thy fortresses are like figs which have watchers; when shaken they will fall into the mouth of the eater."}

Nahum 3:13 Behold, your troops in your midst are women. The gates of your land are set wide open to your enemies. The fire has devoured your bars.

Women are seen as weak so the phrase could mean your troops in your midst are as weak as women or there are women in your midst. Some would say that they had women among thier troops, Assyrians soldiers were known to bring their wives and children with them in battle .

Septuagint {"Behold thy people in thee are like women; the gates of thy land shall be opened wide to thine enemies; a fire shall utterly devour thy bars."}

Josephus states in Antiquities of The Jews Book 9, Chapter 11 {"Now there was at that time a prophet, whose name was Nahum, who spake after this manner concerning the overthrow of the Assyrians and of Nineveh: "Nineveh shall be a pool of water in motion so shall all her people be troubled, and tossed, and go away by flight, while they say one to another, Stand, stand still, seize their gold and silver, for there shall be no one to wish them well, for they will rather save their lives than their money; for a terrible contention shall possess them one with another, and lamentation, and loosing of the members, and their countenances shall be perfectly black with fear. And there will be the den of the lions, and the mother of the young lions! God says to thee, Nineveh, that they shall deface thee, and the lion shall no longer go out from thee to give laws to the world." And indeed this prophet prophesied many other things besides these concerning Nineveh, which I do not think necessary to repeat, and I here omit them, that I may not appear troublesome to my readers; all which thing happened about Nineveh a hundred and fifteen years afterward: so this may suffice to have spoken of these matters."}

Nahum 3:14 Draw water for the siege. Strengthen your fortresses. Go into the clay, and tread the mortar. Make the brick kiln strong.

Septuagint {"Draw thee water for a siege, and fortify thy bulwarks. Go down into the clay, and let him be trampled with straw. Make it harder than any brick."}

Nahum 3:15 There the fire will devour you. The sword will cut you off. It will devour you like the grasshopper. Multiply like grasshoppers. Multiply like the locust.

Septuagint {"There a fire shall devour thee; a sword shall cut thee off. Like a locust it will devour thee; and like a brouchus locust thou shalt be afflicted."}

Nahum 3:16 You have increased your merchants more than the stars of the skies. The grasshopper strips, and flees away.

Septuagint {" Thou hast multiplied thy merchandise, above the stars of heaven; the brouchus came rushing on, and is flown."}

Nahum 3:17 Your guards are like the locusts, and your officials like the swarms of locusts, which settle on the walls on a cold day, but when the sun appears, they flee away, and their place is not known where they are.

Septuagint {" Thy merchandise is swept away like the attelebos locust; like the small locust mounted on a hedge, in a cold day: the sun broke out and they are swept away, and their place is not known. Alas for them!"}

Nahum 3:18 Your shepherds slumber, king of Assyria. Your nobles lie down. Your people are scattered on the mountains, and there is no one to gather them.

Septuagint {" your shepherds slumbered; an Assyrian king lulled to sleep thy mighty men: your people fled to the mountains and there was none to rally them."}

O king of Assyria; Your nobles rest in the dust. Your people are scattered on the mountains, And no one gathers them. Assyria was captured and destroyed by Nabopolassar of Babylonia and his allies, the Scythians and Medes, in 612 BC.

According to The Babylonian Chronicle in the British Museum 21901 , 38-50 {" In the 14th year of the king of Babylonia (Nabopolassar 613-612 B.C) called out his army and march out to ...., the king of the Umman-manda and the King of Babylonia met each other in.....Kyaxares made....the king of Babylonia to cross and they marched along the Tigris River bank and pitch camp by Nineveh. From the month of Sivan to the month of Ab (July/Aug) they advanced. only three....They made a strong attack on the citadel and in the month of Ab, [on the...th day the city was taken] a great defeat was inflicted on the people and their chiefs. On the same day Sin-shar-ishkun , the Assyrian king , [perished in the flames]. They carried off much spoil from the city and the temple area and turned the city into a ruin mound and heap of debris.... Assyria moved off before [the final attack] and the forces of the babyonian king [followed them] . On the 20th of Elul , Kyaxares and his army returned to his land ; the Babylonians king and his army marched as far as Nisibin . Booty and prisioners.....and of the land of Rusapu were brought before the Babyonian king at Nineveh. In the month of [...Ashur-uballit] sat on the throne in Harran as king of Assyria ."}

King Sin-shar-ishkun was the last king of Assyria at Nineveh he rules from 628 to 612 B.C.

Nahum 3:19 There is no healing your wound, for your injury is fatal. All who hear the report of you clap their hands over you; for who hasn't felt your endless cruelty?

Septuagint {"There is no cure for thy bruise. Thy wound is festered. All that hear the news of thee will clap their hands at thee. For upon whom hath not thy wickedness come continually?"}

Ends with a question as Jonah ended with a question. Jonah 4:11